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FRONT'S MEETINGS ARE ASSURED OF "THE BOYS' ACQUITTAL"

John Scanlan and Others Address Followers at Weekly Gatherings

Strong assurances that "the boys will be acquitted" were voiced by the leading speakers addressing the recent weekly meetings of the Christian Front held at Prospect Hall, Brooklyn, New York. The audience, each time consisting of several hundred people, cheered the leaders' declarations from the platform that there is no doubt whatever in their minds as to the ultimate acquittal of those Christian Frontists now on trial on charges of plotting to overthrow the United States Government.

In one of his speeches, John Scanlan (nephew of Patrick J. Scanlan, managing editor of the Brooklyn Tablet, the Coughlinite paper) informed the gathering that, although certain Catholic priests are still refusing to assist these defendants, certain other representatives of the Catholic Church are actively continuing their efforts on the Frontists' behalf. He announced that a Bay Ridge priest was holding a mass for the successful outcome of the trial, and that the Christian Front is grateful to such clergymen.

Policemen-Frontists "Have Nothing to Fear"

From speeches by Scanlan and other Frontist leaders it is evident that the Front's Publicity Committee is increasingly assuming the role of a spearhead in the Front's campaign against all those whom the Coughlinites consider as their foes. A special campaign is being prepared against Dr. Harry D. Gideonse, president of Brooklyn College, whom the Frontists threaten "to make eat his words against the Front." Another campaign is aimed against Mayor LaGuardia and Police Commissioner Valentine for their anti-Front measures. John Scanlan declared that no policeman in New York should fear the Mayor and the Police Commissioner if the policeman happens to be a member of the Christian Front. The days of fear are over, he announced, and "the Front will back up anybody picked out by the Mayor or the Commissioner for attack."

Jew-hating speeches of unprecedented violence were delivered at the Front's recent meetings by Floyd Carridi. He read statements permeated with anti-Semitism which he claimed represented quotations

from the writings of the Popes of centuries back. He interrupted his readings and speeches to say that he hoped he would be arrested, so that he could be a martyr.

Hitler Praised by Frontists

Hitler was praised in the various speeches at the Front's meetings, and at least once it was suggested that Der Fuehrer should be contacted by the Front "to help rid America of the Jews by dumping them into the ocean." New members of the Front, who have joined since January 1, were inducted at one of the recent meetings. They were asked to repeat a special oath, the text of which, it is said, was composed by John F. Cassidy, one of the leaders of the group now on trial.

Inter-city cooperation of the members of the Front was urged and a circular was distributed with regard to the activities of the Boston Unit, headed by Francis P. Moran, director.

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BEHIND ERNECKE'S SUICIDE

Nazi Frontist Feared Lack of Defense

If ever the suicide notes left by Claus Gunther Ernecke, one of the 17 defendants in the Christian Front trial in Brooklyn, are made public, they will reveal that relations in the defense camp were far from harmonious. Ernecke was a member of Troop A of the 101st Cavalry, New York National Guard. Very early in the trial, witnesses testified that Ernecke was trying to obtain recruits from among his National Guard acquaintance for an armed detachment of the Christian Front. The defense is, and will be, stressing the "super-patriotic" and "boyish" enthusiasm of the defendants as an extenuating circumstance. Ernecke was thirty-six years old, and feared that such a defense would be absurd in his case. He was quite sure that together with Nazi William G. Bishop he would be "left out in the cold" and "holding the bag," in order to save the young native-born Frontists.

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FIRST UNITED STATES CONCENTRATION CAMP USED BY SILVER SHIRTS

Yakima, Wash., is Site of Nazi-Type Barbed Wire Enclosure

We hear from Yakima, Washington, that the concentration camp at Yakima still stands in the country court-house yard despite public protest. It is used by the Associated Farmers as an "object lesson" to migratory workers who might try organizing. The police chief in that town is a member of Pelly's "defunct" Silver Shirts. Although relatively weak in that region, the Silver Shirts have held a number of anti-Semitic meetings and distributed the pamphlets of the now discredited goateed Fuehrer.

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WINROD "KNOWS" FUTURE OF EUROPE BUT NOT OF HIS OWN FINANCES**Boasts of King's Inquiry -- Begs Money to Aid U. S. Fascism**

The king of a certain European nation has recently asked an American fascist preacher in the Middle West "for an analysis of the probable position of that Country, in Bible prophecy," in the course of 1940. The fascist preacher is none other than the Reverend Gerald B. Winrod, of Wichita, Kansas, editor of the Revealer and the Defender, author of numerous books and pamphlets filled with superstitious pronouncements and with incitement of racial hatred, and unsuccessful candidate for Republican Senatorial nomination in Kansas in 1938. We base the news of the king's request on Dr. Winrod's own recent boast, but the king's name and country are not given by the Kansas parson who, in his statement entitled "Prophetic Trends for 1940," declares:

"Propriety forbids that I mention the name of this King, or the name of his Country, but suffice to say, he has been reading Defender writings and wished a detailed statement regarding Dr. Winrod's understanding of the prophecies, affecting that part of the world. His request was transmitted through the mother of one of his secretaries. This King is, of course, a Christian."

In a leaflet advertising Winrod's latest book, Europe in Flames, the Midwestern admirer of fascism and nazism promises inside information on the European situation with "prophetic deductions, which penetrate into the future." However, while asserting that he knows precisely what is in store for the world, Winrod admits that his prophetic genius fails him when it comes to knowing exactly where he might find his next dollar. In yet another recent mimeographed broadside, entitled "Plain Truth About the War Situation," Winrod declares that he has "put pride under my feet," and is "willing to beg," since "our homes, our boys, our institutions, our very system of government, are at stake."

Friend of Nazis, Foe of Jews and Catholics

According to Winrod, they are at stake because for some puzzling reason his earlier expectations did not come true and fascism has been tardy in conquering America. Winrod feels he has done his utmost to arouse Americans against democracy, Jews, Catholics and other concepts and people he dislikes. The Nazis also feel that Winrod has exerted himself to the best of his ability. In 1935 Winrod visited Nazi Germany, returning with renewed enthusiasm for Hitler and his works. World-Service, the German propaganda agency, once wrote a letter recommending that Winrod's Defender "be read for further enlightenment" on the Jewish problem. When the two Nazi propagandists, Oscar C. Pfaus of Hamburg and Dr. Anna Bogenholm Sloane of New York, were planning the establishment in New York of an anti-Semitic and anti-democratic newspaper to be called The National American Patriot, they included Winrod in a Council of Twelve to back the newspaper (see The Hour for November 25, 1939, page 2). In his turn Winrod in his speeches and writings has often praised Hitler and Hitlerism -- as well as Mussolini and Franco.

Winrod claims to be a Protestant preacher, but the church body have repudiated him. His Defender is stated to be the official organ of the "Defenders of the Christian Faith," a group founded by Winrod, and sometimes known also as "the League of the Hidden Hand," with a fundamental purpose of fostering anti-Semitism. In his addresses, delivered in a revivalist fashion, Winrod attacks Jews for "opposing the Christian Church," imitates a Jew speaking broken English, and demonstrates his anti-Semitism in many other ways.

While approving of Father Coughlin's attacks on Jews, Winrod nevertheless often shows that he is not a friend of the Catholics. Thus, in one of his public speeches he sneeringly refers to the Pope as "papa" and the monks as "monkeys"; his criticism of the Catholic Church is generally full of venom.

Far-Flung Apparatus Has Gone Wrong

At one time Winrod's magazines and brochures were sent free and in great quantities throughout the United States and to a number of foreign countries, and Winrod himself traveled to speak in Tennessee, Pennsylvania and other states, while his financial affairs were handled for him by two "specialists" of Muskogee, Oklahoma. At York, Pennsylvania, he claimed local Republican support. Some of Winrod's radio speeches delivered over Station XERA on the Mexican border were printed in booklet form, and the booklet was highly praised by that super-active fascist octogenarian, James True of Washington, D. C., in his Industrial Control Reports. Sir Oswald Mosley, the British fascist leader, has received literature from Winrod for distribution in England.

Lately, however, something has gone wrong somewhere, curtailing and impairing this far-flung apparatus and necessitating Winrod's more-than-usually-frantic appeals for help.

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NAZI AGENT WESTRICK PLANS SPECIAL OFFICE

Large Sum of Money on Deposit

Subsequent to the exclusive story in The Hour of April 6 on the arrival in New York of Herr Westrick, new German commercial attache, who is slated to be the leading Nazi spokesman in the United States, the New York Times and World-Telegram of April 13 reported that Dr. Gerhard Alois Westrick would make his permanent headquarters in the Hotel Plaza, not in the regular consulate. Dr. Westrick, former legal partner of Dr. Heinrich Albert, ex-Reich Chancellor and World War partner of Franz von Papen, recently presented his credentials in Washington. In an interview, Dr. Westrick declared that he was anxious to preserve German-American trade after the war ended. Dr. Westrick did not disclose the fact, which has become known to The Hour, that a large sum of money is deposited to his personal credit in a West Coast bank. Nor did he mention the purpose of his negotiations with the Japanese, which came to a conclusion shortly before Japan declared that she would not tolerate an allied naval blockade in the Japan Sea.

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Through the Hourglass

MICHAEL SAYERS

A CHALLENGE TO AMERICA

Throughout the world today, because of the ever-spreading War, the structure of democratic liberties is threatened. The United States is not among the belligerent nations, yet only the wilfully blind cannot see that here, too, in this strained and tormenting world situation, democracy is endangered. Reactionaries within these borders take advantage of the desperate circumstances of War to renew their brutal drives against defenceless minorities. The Jewish people experience unprecedented baiting. Millions of law-abiding Americans, simply because they are foreign-born, stand in imminent danger. Labor fights for its free existence.

In every town and village in the United States an ominous awakening of the most ruthless reactionary forces is suddenly apparent. Startling trials reveal in great cities conditions of anti-Labor and anti-Semitic terror and violence unequalled outside of Nazi Germany. Headlines in metropolitan newspapers blazon the fact that the Ku Klux Klan rides again. Burning crosses are seen in New Jersey, Detroit, Los Angeles. Negroes are beaten and tortured. Scores of new and old terrorist organizations -- Silver Shirts, Black Legion, Christian Front, Mobilizers -- sprout overnight like toadstools.

American democracy is entering a period of trials and peril. Now as never before Americans must be vigilant and active in defense of their civil rights. Now as never before, in speech and action, Americans must be prepared to vindicate their heritage.

Right now a major test confronts the democracy of the United States. A bill, sponsored by Senators Wagner of New York and Van Nuys of Indiana, is about to come up for debate before the Senate. Its purpose is to abolish the barbarism of the lawless Lynch-Mobs.

Can any honorable and decent person show any good reason why this bill should not become law? The overwhelming majority of the American people favors it. The entire course of American history, of its evolution towards greater democracy, pleads for it. Then what obstructs it?

In the United States Senate a little group of race-minded Tories has proclaimed its determination to stage a filibuster against the bill. Literally, this unconscionable clique proposes to talk out of existence a piece of legislation designed to put an end forever to the lawless Lynch-Mob. When the bill comes upon the floor of the Senate, this group promises to indulge in an orgy of unrestricted irrelevance. Every stratagem and every audacity of impertinence will be resorted to, so that this bill shall not pass -- so that the terrorism visited upon the Negro people shall continue, and the sadism of the Lynch-Mob still flourish, untrammelled by law.

It is a challenge to America. A threat to any minority is a threat to all. For too long the abominable fact of lynching in the South has been a reproach upon the whole of American democracy. The bill to abolish the Lynch-Mob must pass. Unless it does, one of the foundations of American democracy will remain displaced. The Lynch-Mob itself may well become the ruling force in this country as it is already in too many others.

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